REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 were rejected. In this paper, Claims 21-26 are added. Claims 1-26 are currently pending. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Rejections based on Azimi

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Azimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,183). Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Azimi in view of Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,704).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Azimi fails to disclose, "a comparator circuit that is arranged to provide a trigger signal by comparing a reference signal to a temperature sensor signal", as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. The signal at reference electrode 24 of FIG. 3 of Azimi is a bandgap reference voltage, not a temperature sensor signal. A bandgap reference voltage is substantially independent of temperature and therefore cannot be used as a temperature sensor signal.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections to Claims 2-12 should be withdrawn at least because they depend from Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 13 should be withdrawn at least because Azimi fails to disclose, "activating hysteresis if a temperature-sensing condition has occurred", as recited in Applicant's Claim 13. In Azimi, activation of hysteresis is not based on a temperature-sensing condition.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections to Claims 14-19 should be withdrawn at least because they depend on Claim 13.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 16 should be withdrawn at least because Azimi fails to disclose, "comparing a temperature sensor signal to a reference

signal", as recited in Applicant's Claim 16. The signal at reference electrode 24 of FIG. 3 of Azimi is a bandgap reference voltage, not a temperature sensor signal.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 20 should be withdrawn at least because Azimi fails to disclose, "means for activating hysteresis if a temperature-sensing condition has occurred", as recited in Applicant's Claim 20.

Rejections based on Lim

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,857). Each of the rejections is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Lim fails to disclose, "a gate circuit that is arranged to provide an output signal by gating a gate input signal subject to control by a gate control signal, wherein the gate input signal is based at least in part on the trigger signal", as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. The rejection states, "a gate circuit (AND45) that is arranged to provide an output signal (Vout2)". However, Vout2 is not provided by AND gate AND45 of FIG. 4 of Lim. Rather, AND gate AND45 of FIG. 4 of Lim receives signal Vout1 and Vout2 as inputs, and provides a signal to the base of transistor Q45 as an output of the AND gate AND45. AND gate AND45 of FIG. 4 of Lim does not provide Vout2; rather, AND gate AND45 of FIG. 4 of Lim **receives** signal Vout2.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn for the following reasons that is independent of the aforementioned reason. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Lim fails to disclose, "a comparator circuit that is arranged to provide a trigger signal by comparing a reference signal to a temperature sensor signal", as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. Voltage Vin2 of FIG. 4 of Lim is not a temperature sensor signal.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn for the following reasons that is independent of the aforementioned reasons. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Lim fails to disclose,

"wherein the gate control signal is based at least in part on a power-on-reset signal". Voltage Vin1 of FIG. 4 of Lim is not a power-on reset signal.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claims 2, 3, and 5-11 should be withdrawn at least because they depend from Claim 1.

Claim 13 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Lim fails to disclose, "activating hysteresis if a temperature-sensing condition has occurred", as recited in Applicant's Claim 13. In the circuit of FIG. 4 of Lim, activating hysteresis is not based on a temperature-sensing condition.

As an additional reason as to why the rejection to Claim 13 should be withdrawn, independent of the aforementioned reason, the rejection to Claim 13 should be withdrawn at least because Lim fails to disclose, "ensuring that the hysteresis is automatically inactive when the circuit is powering up". The circuit of FIG. 4 of Lim does not have any means of disabling the hysteresis or of otherwise assuring that the hysteresis is inactive when the circuit is powering up.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections to Claims 14-19 should be withdrawn at least because they depend from Claim 13.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to Claim 20 should be withdrawn at least for reasons similar to those stated above with regard to Claim 13.

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1-20 are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 21-26

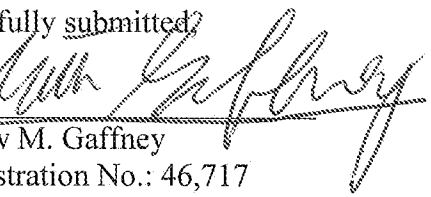
Claims 21-25 are respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because they depend on Claim 1. Claim 26 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because it depends on Claim 13 and Claim 16.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (Claims 1-26) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Dated: December 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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